This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying ~~a~~said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing access to said resource by said resource server peer group when ~~using~~ said at least one key matches an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying ~~a~~said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing access to said resource by said resource server peer group when ~~using~~ said at least one key matches an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource.

3. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying ~~a~~said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing access to said resource by said resource server peer group when ~~using~~ said at least one key matches an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource.

4. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying ~~a~~said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing access to said resource by said resource server peer group when ~~using~~ said at least one key matches an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource.

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying ~~a~~said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

means for providing access to said resource by said resource server peer group when ~~using~~ said at least one key matches an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying ~~a~~said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

means for providing access to said resource by said resource server peer group when ~~using~~ said at least one key matches an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource.

7. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein said rights key credential further comprises a nested credential referring to at least one credential relating to a resource delivery mechanism.

8. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said providing access further comprises using said resource delivery mechanism.

9. (New) The method of Claim 2 wherein said rights key credential further comprises a nested credential referring to at least one credential relating to a resource delivery mechanism.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein said providing access further comprises using said resource delivery mechanism.

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 655-0880
Fax (831) 655-0888